

REMARKS

Election of Species

The application stands subject to a election requirement of species. The Examiner has designated Species A through S (drawn to Figures 1-3, 7-12, 15-17, 19-20, 22,24, 26-28, respectively), and Subspecies 1 through 3 (drawn to Figures 4 through 5, respectively) within each of Species A through G.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Species P, that is, claims 15-16, 22-24, 34, and 39 which are readable on Figure 24. Since claims 22-24 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1, 15-16, 22-24, 34, and 39 be examined. In addition, since claims 48 and 52 depend from elected claim 15, these claims are entitled to consideration upon the allowance of claim 15 which is a generic claim with respect to claims 16, 48 and 52.

Request for Reconsideration of the Designation of the Species

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the designation of the species as follows:

1. Elimination of Species H.

In the Restriction Requirement, Species G and H are both drawn to Figure 11. Since Species H is a simple duplicate of Species G, Applicant respectfully requests Species H be eliminated.

2. Grouping of Species J, K and L into One Species.

Species J, K and L are drawn to Figures 15, 16 and 17, respectively. However, Figures 15-17 illustrate the same embodiment (Embodiment 9), as described on page 29-32 of the present specification. Since “species are always the specifically different embodiments” (M.P.E.P §806.04(e)), Applicant respectfully request that Species J, K and L be groped into one species (Species J).

3. Grouping of Species M and N into One Species.

Species M and N are drawn to Figures 19 and 20, respectively. However, Figures 19-20 illustrate the same embodiment (Embodiment 10), as described on page 32-33 of the present specification. For the same reason stated above, Applicant respectfully request that Species M and N be groped into one species (Species M).

Information Disclosure Statement

Information Disclosure Statements were submitted on February 16, 2001 and February 19, 2004. Although the Examiner signed and returned copies of PTO Form 1449's, the Examiner's initials are missing from the forms. Applicant hereby respectfully requests full acknowledgment of the references cited in the IDS'.

Attached herewith are a copy of the returned PTO Form 1449 filed on February 16, 2001 and a copy of the returned PTO Form 1449 filed on February 19, 2004. Please send the PTO form 1449's with the Examiner's signature besides the cited references.

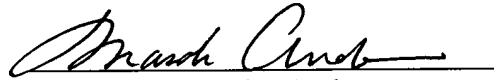
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

Dated: September 15, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Masako Ando", is written over a horizontal line.

Masako Ando

Limited Recognition Under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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